

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-15, 26, and 30-32, amend claims 1 and 33-36, and add new claims 37-41, all as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended): A system for improved implementation of a J2EE connector architecture on an application server, comprising:

a resource adapter for an Enterprise Information System;

a set of system-level contracts between the resource adapter and an application server;

a Common Client Interface capable of providing a client API for Java applications and development tools to access the resource adapter;

a connection manager on the application server capable of managing and maintaining size of a pool of connections to the Enterprise Information System, wherein the connection manager matches a request for a new connection to the Enterprise Information System, through the resource adapter, with an existing and available managed connection in the pool of connections, and wherein the connection manager creates a plurality of managed connections when an existing and available managed connection is not found; and

a set of packaging and development interfaces that provide the ability for resource adapters to plug into J2EE applications in a modular manner.

2 – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a deployment component adapted to automatically detect and deploy a resource adapter on

the application server.

17. (Original): A system according to claim 1, wherein:
the resource adapter further provides support for error logging and tracing.
18. (Original): A system according to claim 17, further comprising:
a deployment descriptor containing a logging-enabled element capable of indicating whether logging is enabled, as well as a log-filename element capable of specifying the name of the file in which to write the logging information.
19. (Original): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a connection manager for enabling the resource adapter to provide services specific to the resource adapter, the services being selected from the group consisting of connection pooling, error logging and tracing, and security management.
20. (Original): A system according to claim 19, wherein:
the connection manager can create physical connections to the underlying Enterprise Information System.
21. (Original): A system according to claim 20, wherein:
the resource adapter is capable of having more than one connection manager instance per physical connection.

22. (Original): A system according to claim 20, further comprising:
a deployment descriptor specific to the resource adapter allowing the resource adapter to be linked to a second resource adapter, the resource adapter capable of sharing resources with the second resource adapter, thereby preventing the duplication of resources and only requiring the resource adapter to modify a subset of resource adapter attributes.

23. (Original): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a deployment descriptor for the resource adapter;
wherein the set of system-level contracts includes a connection management contract and the deployment descriptor contains connection pool parameters capable of setting parameters selected from the group consisting of: the initial number of managed connections the application server attempts to allocate at deployment time, the maximum number of managed connections the application server allows to be allocated at any one time, the number of managed connections the application server attempts to allocate when filling a request for a new connection, whether the application server attempts to reclaim unused managed connections to save system resources, the time the application server waits between attempts to reclaim unused managed connections, the frequency of time to detect and reclaim connections that have exceeded their usage time, and the amount of usage time allowed for a connection.

24. (Original): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a deployment descriptor for the resource adapter and containing an initiating principal mapping, the mapping capable of being used at deployment time if connection pool parameters indicate that the application server should initialize connections.

25. (Original): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a security principal map for each deployed resource adapter, the map providing a mechanism to define appropriate resource principal values for resource adapter and Enterprise Information System sign-on processing.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original): A system for improved implementation of a J2EE connector architecture on an application server, comprising:

a resource adapter for an Enterprise Information System;
a deployment descriptor containing deployment elements for the resource adapter;
a set of system-level contracts between the resource adapter and an application server, the set including a security management contract;
a password converter tool capable of being used with the security management contract to encrypt any passwords in the deployment descriptor;
a Common Client Interface capable of providing a client API for Java applications and development tools to access the resource adapter; and
a set of packaging and development interfaces that provide the ability for resource adapters to plug into J2EE applications in a modular manner.

28. (Original): A system according to claim 27, wherein:

the password converter tool is further adapted to parse an existing deployment descriptor

containing non-encrypted passwords and create a new deployment descriptor containing encrypted passwords.

29. (Original): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a deployment descriptor containing a configuration element for the resource adapter, the configuration element allowing a user to override default deployment values for the resource adapter.

30 - 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 34 1, wherein:
the connection manager ~~is further adapted to create~~ creates each of the plurality of managed connections using the initiating principal and client request information contained in the request for a new connection.

34. (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 34 1, wherein:
the connection manager ~~is further adapted to attempt~~ attempts to recycle a managed connection from the connection pool if a maximum number of connections is reached.

35. (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 30 1, wherein:
the connection manager ~~is further adapted to monitor~~ monitors the activity of managed connections in the connection pool during the deployment of a resource adapter, the connection manager being capable of reducing the size of the connection pool if connection usage decreases and

remains at the decreased level over a period of time.

36. (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 30 1, wherein:

the connection manager ~~is further adapted to~~ automatically closes ~~else~~ a managed connection that has exhausted its usage time.

37. (New): A system according to claim 1, wherein transaction level type supported by the resource adapter is specified by an element in a deployment descriptor.

38. (New): A system according to claim 37, wherein transaction level type supported by the resource adapter is specified as XA transaction, local transaction, or no transaction.

39. (New): A system according to claim 35, wherein an element in the deployment descriptor sets the frequency for calculating connection pool size reduction.

40. (New): A system according to claim 36, wherein an element in the deployment descriptor sets the frequency for calculating whether a connection has exceeded its usage time.

41. (New): A system according to claim 36, wherein an element in the deployment descriptor sets the maximum usage time for a connection.